

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 081937Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9745

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4740

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PE, PFOR

SUBJECT: PINOCHET ON COMMUNISM AND PERU

REF: SANTIAGO 4565

1. WARMING TO A SANTIAGO ROTARY CLUB LUNCHEON AUDIENCE WHICH INCLUDED AMBASSADORS OF ARGENTINA, URUGUAY AND PANAMA, JUNTA PRESIDENT GENERAL PINOCHET AUGUST 7 RANGED WIDELY OVER JUNTA'S EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL POLICY, CLIMAXING HIS REMARKS WITH COMMENTS ON "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" AS CURRENTLY SEEN HERE.

2. PINOCHET ASSERTED THAT BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10 (DAY BEFORE ANTI-ALLENDE COUP) COMMUNISM CONSIDERED CHILE WITHIN ITS ORBIT; HENCE ITS IRRITATION AND DESPERATION OVER THE EXAMPLE THAT "THIS SMALL COUNTRY HAS GIVEN TO THE WORLD." PINOCHET WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT COMMUNISM IS SPENDING MORE THAN \$100 MILLION A MONTH IN ITS ANTI-CHILE CAMPAIGN, A SUM THAT WOULD PERMIT CHILE TO BUILD 25,000 HOUSES. CONTINUING HIS ATTACK, GENERAL
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PINOCHET LAMENTED COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN OF ANTI-CHILEAN VILIFI-

CATION. REMARKED THAT COMMUNISM IS NOT CONTENT EVEN WITH SEEKING THE LIFE OF A CHILEAN AMBASSADOR (REFERENCE TO GENERAL CANALES, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN LEBANON, SEVERELY WOUNDED IN ATTACK BY A LEFTIST ORGANIZATION); HAVING LOST CHILE FROM ITS ORBIT, IT IS TRYING TO BRING ANOTHER COUNTRY INTO ITS SERVICE FOR THE SAME PURPOSES. CHILE, HE CONTINUED, HAS CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH PRACTICALLY ALL THE AMERICAN STATES, BUT ALSO HAS A PROUD HISTORIC TRADITION WHICH VERY FEW COUNTRIES CAN EXHIBIT.

3. THESE LAST COMMENTS WERE WIDELY REGARDED HERE AS VEILED REFERENCE TO PERU. THEY STAND IN CONTRAST TO FULSOME OFFICIAL PRAISE OF EACH "SISTER COUNTRY" BY OFFICIALS OF THE OTHER, WHICH WE HAVE OBSERVED SINCE ALARMIST TALK OVER PERUVIAN REARMAMENT SUBSIDED EARLIER THIS YEAR. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK MAY THUS BE DELAYED FALLOUT FROM SOVIET TANK AND MISSILE DISPLAY IN LIMA NATIONAL DAY PARADE, COUPLED WITH CONTINUING SUSPICION REGARDING TOLERATED ACTIVITIES OF PERUVIAN COMMUNISTS.

4. AT SAME TIME, SANTIAGO PRESS AUG 8 PROMINENTLY REPORTS STATEMENT IN BOGOTA OF PERUVIAN PRIME MINISTER EDGARDO MERCADO JARRIN DISCOUNTING PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE PERUVIAN MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH CHILE.
POPPER

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